

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN DRESSINGS

(71) We, EDWARD MICHAEL BEARN of Silver Birches, 52 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, Sussex, England, and JOHN ROSSOLL BARSBY of Holmwood, Main Road, Barnham, Sussex, England, both British Subjects, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention is concerned with improvements in dressings.

Dressings for application to the human body are conventionally tinted to approximately the average colour of human skin with the object of making them less conspicuous in use. However, even if by chance a good colour match is obtained, no form of tinting hitherto proposed adequately matches the appearance of human skin. Skin is not a uniform colour, and therefore such dressings are inevitably more or less conspicuous since they do not simulate the texture of human skin. Attempts to do this by printing the dressing with a regular pattern of flesh coloured dots, lines or the like also fail to match accurately the texture of human skin. The deficiencies of known dressings are particularly marked when they are used to cover some unsightly skin defect. The patient is then keenly aware that his dressing is conspicuous. We have now found that dressings which mitigate these defects of known dressings can be prepared by incorporating into one face of the dressing a printed representation of human skin. This printed representation accurately portrays the local colour variations found in skin, unlike any previous dressings of which we are aware.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a dressing for application to the human body having on the face thereof remote from the body in use of said dressing a representation of human skin printed onto microporous or perforated plastics film, so that in use the dressing simulates the ap-

pearance of the surrounding natural skin.

We have found that by using a printed representation of human skin, the dressing can accurately simulate the appearance of the surrounding skin to which it is attached, and thus a much more natural appearance can be obtained.

Suitable materials for the film may be selected from polyolefins, such as polyethylene or polypropylene; polyamides; polyesters such as polyethylene terephthalate; and vinyl materials such as polyvinyl acetate and vinylacetate/vinylchloride copolymers. We have found high density polyethylene to be very suitable. The film may be printed by any convenient method, such as photogravure, screen printing, lithography or heat transfer printing, the representation preferably being derived photographically from a sample of human skin similar to that of the patient. Microporous or perforated film has the advantage of permitting the escape of water vapour from the area covered by the dressing. If desired, the printed representation may be covered with a further transparent or translucent plastics film coated or laminated thereon, e.g. of polypropylene.

The dressing may be in any of the conventional forms, such as bandages, elastic bandages, finger stalls, etc. However, the preferred form of dressing is self-adhesive; such dressings will have, on the reverse face to the printed face, a contact adhesive suitable for application to skin. In order to prevent unwanted adhesion of the dressing to its packaging, the self-adhesive surface may be protected by removable backing members, e.g. of paper bearing a release coating. The dressing can alternatively be dispensed from a roll, in which case the front face preferably bears a release coating.

Particularly when the dressing is to be employed to camouflage some skin defect, the printed plastics film may be adhered directly to the skin. When the dressing is intended to protect a wound, it is preferable to provide a backing layer of fabric or other

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absorbent material. This layer naturally adds to the thickness of the dressing and therefore tends to render it slightly more conspicuous.

- 5 The dressings may be medicated by coating or impregnation with some mild antiseptic agent, such as zinc oxide, chlorhexidine, etc.

- 10 As mentioned above, the dressings may be used to camouflage a skin defect. Such defects, particularly on the face, are apt to cause much embarrassment. The conventional treatment, apart from plastics surgery, has been a careful application of cosmetics. Although effective, the application of cosmetics is a slow and difficult process which has to be repeated every few hours. Provided that a dressing matching the patient's skin is selected, a highly satisfactory camouflage effect can be obtained by simple application of a dressing according to the present invention. In this way, conspicuous moles, strawberry marks, port wine stains and the like may rapidly be concealed.

- 25 The accompanying drawing illustrates a cross-section through a dressing according to the invention. The high density microporous polyethylene film (1) has been printed on its surface (2), by photogravure, with a photographically derived representation of human skin. The reverse face bears a layer of rubber-based contact adhesive (3), and to this is adhered a protective backing (4). In use of the dressing, the backing (4) is first removed and then the dressing is applied to the skin and instantly becomes adhered thereto.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

- 40 1. A dressing for application to the human body having on the face thereof remote

from the body in use of said dressing a representation of human skin printed onto microporous or perforated plastics film so that in use the dressing simulates the appearance of the surrounding natural skin.

2. A dressing according to claim 1 wherein said plastics film is of high density polyethylene.

3. A dressing according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said printed representation is covered with a transparent or translucent plastics film coated or laminated thereon.

4. A dressing according to claim 3 wherein said transparent or translucent plastics film is of polypropylene.

5. A dressing according to any of the preceding claims in the form of a bandage, elastic bandage or finger stall.

6. A dressing according to any of claims 1—4 having a contact adhesive suitable for application to skin on the face thereof opposite to said printed face.

7. A dressing according to claim 6 suitable for concealing a skin defect, said dressing having said contact adhesive as a coating on the face of said plastics film opposite to said printed face.

8. A dressing according to any of claims 1—6 including a backing layer of fabric or other absorbent material.

9. A dressing according to any of the preceding claims which has been medicated.

10. A dressing according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described.

11. A dressing according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

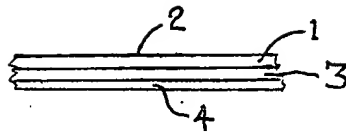
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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

*This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale*



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